

BULLETIN  
OF  
THE MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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M. L. A. OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1940-1941

President: Miss Winifred Snider, Mount Allison Memorial Library,  
Sackville, N. B.

Vice-Presidents: Miss E. M. A. Vaughan, Saint John Free Public Library,  
Saint John, N. B., Miss Mary Fraser, Dalhousie University  
Library, Halifax, N. S., Miss Dorothy Cullen, P. E. I.  
Libraries, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Mary Kinley Ingraham, Acadia University  
Library, Wolfville, N. S.

Councillors: Miss Mabel Sterling, Univ. of New Brunswick Library,  
Fredericton, N. B., Miss Eugenie Archibald, Dalhousie Univ.  
Library, Halifax, N. S., Miss Jean C. Gill, Prince Edward  
Island Legislative Library, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the meeting of a new year a few resolutions are always in order, or perhaps in the present militant state of the world a better term to use would be a plan of campaign. I am most appreciative of the honour bestowed on me by the Maritime Library Association in electing me President and accordingly leader in this year's library campaign.

It seems to me that the key-note of this year's campaign should be cooperation. The Maritime Provinces are at an important stage of library development. Much has been done towards making books available to everyone in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. I know from my own contacts with study clubs in New Brunswick that there is a growing realization that a more comprehensive library system would prove of great benefit, particularly to the rural people of the Province. We librarians are notoriously retiring by nature and inclined to hide our light under a bushel, but it seems to me that the time has come to cooperate with all those who want better library service and with those who do not know what it can do for them, by placing not only available books but our knowledge of books and library methods at their service.

Perhaps an even more immediate instance where the co-operation of librarians is needed is in connection with the camp libraries for the combatant forces. We know that these libraries represent an unparalleled opportunity of bringing books to many people who have not hitherto had the advantage of books and libraries within easy reach and we are inclined to be impatient with those who have not realized the potential importance of this development. I feel that it is a project which is well worth the sacrifice of personal and professional pride if by diplomatic cooperation we can secure the financial backing, organization and technical skill which are needed in order to carry on the work.

There has never in the history of our country been such need of intelligent thinking as at present. If democracy is to continue, as we are convinced it must, the responsibility of librarians is a heavy one. We can be active in the fight if we guide our readers towards sane and balanced thinking with the books we choose and recommend.

Let our watch-word be cooperation, not passive but aggressively active. As an association we are small, but as a source of knowledge and power for others we can be mighty. Here's to a successful year for Maritime libraries!

--Winifred Snider.

#### THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE REORGANIZED MARITIME LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The sixth annual conference of the M. L. I. met in the Moncton Public Library, Moncton, N.B. on the morning of Thursday, June 20, 1940, with President Bramwell Chandler in the chair. About twenty-five members were present. Mr. Chandler introduced Mayor Story, who in the happiest manner extended a civic welcome to the assembled delegates.

The President's address followed. He emphasized the responsibility of librarians in the dark way into which civilization has fallen, and commented rather sharply on the limitations of their average mental range. He then spoke briefly on these four topics: the regional library movement in Nova Scotia, provision of libraries for soldiers in militia camps, a closer unity between librarians, the possibility of a Canadian Library Association.

The minutes of the fifth annual conference were read and approved; and immediately following the Secretary-Treasurer read her report. Four new members had been added during the year, two from Nova Scotia and two from New Brunswick, and one valued member, Mr. Harry Piers of the Provincial Science Library in Halifax, had been removed by death. Other matters touched upon in the report were: the Library Clubs at Saint John and Halifax, the illness of their two able supporters, Miss Ethel G. Shaw of Saint John and Miss Eugenie Archibald of the Dalhousie University Library in Halifax, suggestions from Miss Archibald and others that the Institute resume its former name, Maritime Library Association, the Bulletin, the libraries in militia training camps, the Regional Libraries in Nova Scotia and the Carnegie grant to these. The



financial report showed a balance of \$147.24. On motion this report was adopted, and by a vote of the conference the name of the body was changed from Maritime Library Institute to Maritime Library Association. This action restores the link with the old Maritime Library Association, organized in 1918, reorganized at Montreal in 1934, and carried on since 1935 under the name of the Maritime Library Institute. It was also voted that power be given the Executive to secure incorporation of the Association if this should be found expedient.

#### Committees

The President appointed as Nominating Committee: Miss Jean C. Gill, Miss Marion Gilroy, and Mrs. B. F. Moore; as Committee on Resolutions: Miss E. M. A. Vaughan, Miss L. F. Barnaby, Miss Dorothy Cullen.

#### The Librarians' Round Table

The Librarians' Round Table was an unusually lively one. The following gave informal reports of the year's work in their respective libraries: Miss E. M. A. Vaughan of Saint John Free Public Library, Miss Georgia Starrett of the L. P. Fisher Library at Woodstock, Mr. John Allan Drummond of the Silver Jubilee Library at Hopewell Cape and its branches in Albert County, Miss Mary Fraser of Dalhousie University Library and Miss Marjorie Wickwire of the Library of Acadia University, Miss Jean C. Gill of Charlottetown Legislative and Public Library, Miss Dorothy Cullen of the Prince Edward Island Libraries, Miss L. F. Barnaby of the Citizens' Free Public Library in Halifax, Mrs. B. F. Moore, the Moncton Librarian, Miss Mabel Sterling, Librarian of the University of New Brunswick, Miss Marion Gilroy, who spoke for both the Public Archives of Nova Scotia and for the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries, Miss Doreen Harper of the New Brunswick Legislative Library, Miss Winifred Snider of the Mount Allison Memorial Library who spoke also for the I. O. D. E. Library at Sackville. Keen discussion ranged about the problem of supplying militia camps with adequate library service. The kind of books that should be provided, the ways and means of collecting and apportioning these, the possibility of co-operation with the library associations of British Columbia and Ontario were outstanding topics. President Chandler suggested that in the new government department of war services there should be a libraries branch.

#### Hopewell Cape

In the afternoon of that same day those attending the conference drove to Hopewell Cape, where a few visited the famous Rocks, all spent an hour in the Silver Jubilee Library, and afterwards were delightfully entertained at tea by Mr. and Mrs. John Allan Drummond in their charming home.

#### The Evening Session

The evening meeting at the Brunswick Hotel was open to the public, was quite largely attended, and was presided over by Mr. Godfrey, the President of the Moncton Public Library Board. After a few words of welcome to the librarians the chairman introduced Hon. C. H. Blakeney, the Minister of Education for New Brunswick. Mr.

Blakeney gave a stirring address. He spoke of the menace now threatening our civilization, of the extinction of the ancient culture in Europe, of the dominance of strange systems. Great Britain stands as the bulwark of our freedom and the British Empire cannot be defeated. Those engaged in education and the maintenance of libraries carry on the work that will bring us again to peace and happiness. Canada is clamoring for educated men and women. Mr. Blakeney concluded with a plea that library work be extended in these provinces.

Miss Nora Bateson, Director of Nova Scotia Regional Libraries, was the next speaker. She said that a librarian should not be a custodian of books alone but a leader in culture and thought. She believed libraries were a vital need of the Maritimes. Those who can deal with the changes after the war, she affirmed, must be well read, understanding people. She then spoke of regional libraries. The idea dates from the last war, said Miss Bateson, when Lord Haldane, distressed by the illiteracy in the United Kingdom, advocated central libraries to serve definite areas. Now in Great Britain the county is taken as a unit and every county has its library system. In the Maritimes there is grave lack of books and ideas; after twenty years of good library service this will not be so. In New Brunswick there should be a library commission, and a survey should be made by one who understands the work.

The next address was by Mr. Bramwell Chandler, Superintendent of the P. E. I. Libraries and President of the M. J. A. He told several pithy stories illustrating demands made upon the regional librarian. One of these was about two brothers who made trades for themselves by reading everything the library could supply on Diesel engines. Mr. Chandler concluded his address with an appeal that the country care sufficiently for its young men to provide them with books, reminding the audience that a whole library service could be made availing for the price of one bomb.

After some discussion the meeting adjourned.

#### Friday Morning

The next morning, Friday, June 21, the Conference met again in the Moncton Public Library, President Chandler in the chair. The first speaker on the program, Miss Vaughan of the Saint John Free Public Library, presented the claims of the Friends of the Library movement, and gave a brief sketch of its history. The first Friends of the Library group, she said, was organized in 1913 by the National Library of France; a little later the Bodleian followed with a similar organization and the movement became international. In 1927 the Friends of the Library in Saint John, N.B. maintained the efficiency of the library service though the city cut its usual annual grant.

Miss Muriel Lutes, secretary to the Friends of the Library Association for Albert County, N.B., spoke of the excellent work that was being carried on in that area. Lady Tweedsmuir had been sympathetic with the efforts of the rural teachers to give library service to the people and had donated 1300 books; small groups of these teachers meet regularly and arrange for their distribution. Mrs. J. C. Webster of Shediac had given to the Association 500 books as well as a large number of carefully selected pictures.

Mrs. Webster was present and explained how she prepared for



preservation pictures she had cut from magazines and afterwards bound or framed. She then distributes these to schools.

Mr. James B. Bedell of Fredericton next ~~gave an address on~~ the relation of the government of New Brunswick to the libraries or library movements in the province. This was especially pertinent as Mr. Bedell recently accepted an appointment in the Department of Education. He is responsible, he said, for formulating plans for a system of libraries in New Brunswick. A policy might be determined on the following fundamental principles:

1. Liberal development cannot be expected except on the provincial level.

2. Taxation and legislation belong to the provincial government. Provincial support is indispensable.

3. Regional centres through which a library service might be started on a provincial scale should be located in the cities and larger towns. There should be a provincial advisory board, non-partisan, with long term membership.

Miss Bateson, Miss Vaughan, Mrs. Webster, Miss Lutes, and Mr. Drummond took part in the discussion that followed Mr. Bedell's paper.

#### Closing Business of the Conference

On motion the incoming Executive was asked to get in touch with the O. L. A. on the matter of camp libraries.

The report of the nominating committee was read and adopted. The names of the officers for 1940-'41 are on the first page of this issue. After the adoption of the report the new President, Miss Winifred Snider, took the chair. It was decided by vote that the invitation to hold the seventh Annual Conference of the Maritime Library Association at Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S., be accepted.

Miss Vaughan presented the report of the committee on resolutions. It was resolved that the thanks of the Association be tendered the Moncton Public Library Board, the Librarian, Mrs. Moore, and her assistant, Miss Condon, for their hospitality and entertainment; to Mr. and Mrs. Drummond of Hopewell Cape for their gracious hospitality and for the inspiration received from seeing the work of the Silver Jubilee Library; to the guest speakers for their encouraging addresses; to the press for its able reports of our Conference.

Mrs. Moore invited all attending the Conference to a luncheon at Rockaway Inn generously provided by the Moncton Public Library Board.

#### Luncheon

The luncheon at Rockaway Inn, six miles from the City of Moncton, gave the delegates another opportunity of meeting each other, and of talking with the members of the Moncton Library Board. The Inn was charming, the food dainty and abundant, the conversation lively. Mr. Godfrey, who again presided, made a gracious and genial host.

#### The Webster Museum at Beauséjour

After luncheon the visitors were taken in cars to the natural wonder, Magnetic Hill, and then to the Webster Museum at Beauséjour. The Museum is destined to be a lasting monument to the patriotic devotion and careful scholarship of one man, Dr. J. C. Webster,

applied to the collection and preservation of all records and objects of historical interest in the Chignecto region. Dr. Webster himself welcomed the visitors and explained the exhibits.

The Editor and her four travelling companions regretfully declined an invitation to have tea with Dr. and Mrs. Webster, for it was late afternoon, and there were many miles to cover before we could reach home. Our colleagues had not all arrived; we have not heard from them about the afternoon, but we know they fared well. No good librarian can afford indifference to museum collections. The Moncton Conference was over, our first conference since the outbreak of a new and disastrous war, and it had proved that library interest was unabated in the Maritimes.

Reduced Rates on  
Library Books Circulated by Mail

The Federal Government is cooperating with the library service of Canada in permitting books to be circulated at greatly reduced rates. The regulations for the Maritime Provinces are that library books sent out by a recognized library or institution which does not operate for profit may be sent to any person within these three Provinces at the rate of 5¢ for each pound or fraction thereof and 1¢ for each additional pound or fraction of a pound. This postage which must be prepaid by the senders, covers the return of the library books, provided a suitable label is furnished by the library making the loan. Librarians wishing to take advantage of these reduced rates should apply to the Director of Administration Services, Post Office Department, Canada, Ottawa.